

As we commemorate National Military Appreciation Month (NAMA), I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their families for their service and dedication to our nation. NAMA honors military personnel currently serving or have served, and also gives us the opportunity to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. There are many days of remembrance celebrated throughout the month of May as part of NAMA, including Loyalty Day (May 1st), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (May 6th), VE Day (May 8th), Armed Forces Day (May 21st), and Memorial Day (May 30th). The men and women recognized during NAMA put their lives on the line daily to ensure that the freedom of the United States and the world is protected, as countless others have done for years before them.

Our nation's veterans must also be recognized for the continued hardships they face, including homelessness and mental health illnesses such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

I am proud to have introduced the *Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2011*, which ensures that all veterans receive the continued support they are entitled to. Furthermore, I am proud to have cosponsored legislation such as the *Homes for Heroes Act of 2011* and the *Veterans, Women, Families with Children*,  
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*and Persons With Disabilities Housing Fairness Act of 2010*  
, which will help to stem the alarming rates of homelessness among veterans, as well as the *Caring for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2009* and the *Combat PTSD Act*  
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While National Military Appreciation Month is a time to reflect upon the lives of so many who currently serve, have served and died protecting our country. We must recognize these courageous men and women on a daily basis for their selfless commitment that allows all of us to live in a free and democratic nation.